FOR MYSORE STATE

HELA (1954) Departme

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 450 Health

15

Dated 26.2.54

Closed

Sup'dt

[Despatch Abstract.]

Epidemics - South Kanara Dr - Kasargod Taluk
Kumbla urea Prevalence of Bacillary
dysentry Deputation of Medical Unit
Expenditure sanctioned

Medical Department

From

Lt.Col.Sangham Lal, MBBS., FRCS(Eng)., DOMS(Lond).,
Director of Medical Services, Madras-6.

To

The Secretary to Government, Health Department, Madras.

Ref.No.77309-G2/53 dated 29-9-1953

53028

Sir,

Sub: Epidemics - South Kanara District - Kasargod Taluk - Kumbla Area - Prevalence of Bacillary dysentery in an epidemic form -

Ref: Correspondence resting with this office letter Ref. No.77309-G2/53 dated 8-8-1953 -

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The Medical Unit deputed from Mangalore for treating Bacillary dysentery cases in Kumbla area of Kasargod Taluk was withdrawn from 16-8-53 as there was a steady decline in the number of fresh cases. At the same time, special instructions were issued to the Rural Medical Practitioner at Kumbla to render medical aid to all cases of bacillary dysentery coming to the camp dispensary from the affected villages.

2. The medical unit consisted of one assistant surgeon, one nurse, one nursing orderly(deputed from the sanctioned strength of the Government Head Quarters Hospital, Mangalore) one District Board compounder and one nursing orderly specially appointed by the District Medical Officer, South Kanara to accompany the medical unit for the period from 24-7-53 to 15-8-53. A copy of letter C.No.7914/53 dated 25-8-53 received from the District Medical Officer, South Kanara on the subject is enclosed for the information of Government. In the circumstances stated therein, I request that the Government will kindly sanction the employment of a male nursing orderly on the usual rate of pay and allowances for the period from 24-7-53 to 15-8-53 and also direct that the extra expenditure incurred in connection with the medical relief arrangements made in the Kumbla area be met from State funds. The pay and allowances of the District Board Compounder will, it is presumed, be met from the funds of the South Kanara District Board.

3. In this connection, I also enclose for the information of Government a copy of the final report on the investigation carried out on the field by the Special Investigation Unit deputed from the King Institute, Guindy in connection with the out-break of epidemic dysentery in Kumbla area of South Kanara District. A copy of this report has already been sent to the Director of Public Health, Madras by the Director, King Institute, Guindy direct.

4. It is requested that early orders may kindly be issued on para 2 of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

For Director of Medical Services.

ns.28.9.

HEA (H VII/3)

The paper referred to at 'X' in plan to was not in this section. It is likely that it was dealt with in the former L or H section. H IV and H II are requested to verify and take over the document if it relates to them

CW.
23/11/53

A copy of the D MS's reference mentioned at 'X' in plan to may be called for from the D MS.

The draft memo below is for approval

CW
2.12.53

VR
3/12/53

3 SHEETS

Note 'L'
To H VI 6 24/11/53 30/11/53 30.11.53
H IV 1 30.11.53 30.11.53
30.11.53 30/11/53

Copy of letter C.No.7914/53 dated 25-8-55 from the District Medical Officer, South Kanara, Mangalore to the Director of Medical Services, Madras-6.

Ref: Correspondence resting with your Ref.No.77309-G2/53 dated 11-8-1953 -

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The Special Medical Unit deputed for epidemic duty at Kumbla was withdrawn with effect from the fore-noon of 16-8-1953.

The extra expenditure incurred in giving Medical relief at Kumbla by the Medical Unit is given below.

		Rs.	A.	P.
Travelling allowance and Daily allowance to the Medical Officer Dr.K.Madhavan Kutty	--	88	8	0
-do- for the nurse	--	21	2	0
-do- for the Nursing Orderly	--	16	8	0
-do- for the Dt.Board compounder	--	44	6	0
Total	--	170	8	0
Pay and allowances of One Male Nursing orderly specially appointed to accompany the Medical Unit for the period 24-7-53 to 15-8-53	--	27	7	0
Contingencies, towards freight charges, cost of kerosine oil etc.	--	11	10	6
Cost of Medicines	--	556	14	0
		595	15	6
D/ Board employee's allowance		44	6	0
		551	9	6

Necessary sanction may kindly be accorded for engaging a Nursing Orderly for the period from 24-7-53 to 15-8-53.

As the District Board compounder was sent for Special Duty it is presumed that his pay and allowances will be met By the District Board. A bill for Rs.44-6-0 towards the travelling allowance and the Daily allowance of the District Board compounder has been forwarded to the Special Officer District Board. His reply is awaited.

I may kindly be informed whether the entire cost involved has to be met by the Government or any portion to be recovered from the District Board.

In this connection I have to state that no extra expenditure was incurred towards the pay and allowances for the Medical Officer and the Nur as they were deputed from the sanctioned strength of the Head Quarters Hospital and no substitutes were appointed in their places.

On receipt of orders from the Director, King Institute, the investigating unit from the Institute left Madras for Mangalore on the evening of 19th July, 1953 and reached Mangalore on the evening of 20-7-53. The Government Head Quarters Hospital at Mangalore was to be the head quarters of the Unit.

The work allotted to the Unit was the bacteriological diagnosis of an epidemic reported to be prevalent in Kumbla (distant 21 miles from Mangalore) and the surrounding villages of Mogral etc. From what appeared in the report which had originated from Mogral and upon which presumably this action of sending the investigating unit was taken, it was evident that the residents of the locality referred to above were apprehensive of the prevalence of a "mysterious" epidemic which was taking a toll of "hundreds" of human lives in its wake.

On the morning of 21st July, 1953 the unit accompanied by the Distri Medical Officer and the District Health Officer of South Kanara visited Kumbla and Mogral which form part of a group of villages dotted along th

sea coast. Fishermen and agriculturists form a great majority of the population of these villages.

The epidemic reported appeared obviously to be one of Dysentery (of the Bacillary type as was diagnosed bacteriologically a little later). The chief symptoms complained of by the patients were griping pain in the abdomen followed by frequent passage of blood and mucus in the stools. The passage of blood in the motions was preceded in a few cases by loose watery motions. History of fever could be elicited only in 2 cases out of 9. The microscopic examination of the stools revealed in almost all cases the following features:

R.B.C. pus cells & Macrophage cells ++
No. E.histolytica
No Ova or cysts (Round worm and hookworn ova in 2 cases)

No Charcot - Leyden crystals

Reaction alkaline

The motion samples were put up for culture for isolation of the Dysentery group of organisms. The number of fresh cases that had reported for Examination was only 9 out of which Sh.Shiga was isolated in culture from 2 samples.

On 22nd and 23rd July, 1953 motion samples of 11 fresh cases from the villages of Ichlampady and Arikady were examined out of which in 3 cases Sh.Shiga was isolated in culture.

On 24th July the unit visited Kasaragod and could xx get motion samples of only 2 fresh cases which had just then been admitted in the local Government Hospital. Both these cases gave negative results on culture of the motion samples. Thus from a total number of 22 fresh cases examined in the affected locality, Sh.Shiga was isolated in culture from 5 cases.

The distribution of cases in the various villages and the result of cultural examination of their motion samples was as follows:--

Village.	No.of cases with culture of motion position for Dysentery group of organisms (Sh.Shiga).	No. of cases with culture of motion negative for Dysentery group of organisms.
Kumbla	---	2
Mogral	2	5
Ichlampady	2	4
Arikady	1	4
Kasaragod(Town)	---	2
Total	5	17

Total -- 22 cases.

The no. of cases with motion cultures positive and negative for Dysentery group of organisms distributed according to the age group of the patients was as follows:--

		Age group (4--15 years)	Age group (17--60 years)	
Positive culture	--	1	4 Total Positive	5
Negative culture	--	13	4 Total negative	17
	Total --	14	8	22

There were

There were a number of chronic cases of Dysentery discovered in the course of a house to house enquiry carried out in the affected locality. Some of these cases were quite possibly carriers of Bacillary Dysentery.

The District Health Officer, South Kanara gave the following figures in connection with the epidemic:--

Village & Population	Deaths from Dysentery in the period 1-1-53 to 19-7-53..
Kumbla(6000)	16
Mogral(2667)	4
Arikady(3000)	9
Hosabettu (3000)	4
Upppala(3000)	1
Total no.of deaths	34 (in about 400 attacks).

These figures show that though there was an epidemic of Dysentery in the locality referred to above, the situation created by it was by no means alarming.

It was found on investigation in the locality that most of the cases that had been treated with allopathic drugs had received quite inadequate dosage of Sulphagunidine ranging from 3 to 6 tablets in 24 hours in the case of adults. Many had received Ayurvedic treatment while still others had a combination of both types of treatment for their illness. Such a haphazard method of treatment would have contributed greatly to the incidence of a fairly large number of chronic cases and also a fair proportion of carriers of Bacillary Dysentery in the community.

The standard of sanitation in the locality was found to be appalingly low. Sanitary types of latrines were nowhere to be seen. The open spaces round the houses were found to be the conveniently accessible places used for defaecation. Wells supply the drinking water to the community. But in most of the houses visited, the wells were found to be very shallow and situated on a lower level than the house site itself. In some compounds the so-called wells looked more like shallow pits dug in the earth. During the time of the rains, which are usual in the locality from about May to October every year (the rainfall this year particularly was above average, the departure from normal at the end of July being nearly + 4 inches), the surface water from the surrounding open spaces is washed into these shallow wells which thus get polluted not only by surface but also by subsoil contamination.

Another factor which would have contributed to the spread of the diseases seemed to be the availability of cheap and plentiful supplies of prawns which thus provided a source of cheap food for the majority of the villagers. This fish inadequately cooked due perhaps to the scarcity of dry firewood would have contributed to the incidence of Enteritis to be followed later on by Dysentery when the conditions for its onset became favourable.

With a view to finding out whether the epidemic was confined only to the coastal area of Kumbla and its neighbouring villages or whether there was evidence of the disease in epidemic form in some places in the interior of the District also, the D.H.O., South Kanara and the medical officer i/c of the Investigating Unit visited the Towns of Bantwal, Puttur, Bajpe and Mulki which are situated at some distance from the sea-coast. Nowhere in these places was any evidence of any epidemic of dysentery found and on enquiry from the medical officers in charge of the hospitals in these places, it was elicited that only stray cases of Bacillary Dysentery had reported to them for treatment.

To sum up, it appears therefore that the state of affairs prevailing in Kumbla and the surrounding villages of Mogral etc. viz., low standard of sanitation, use of the highly objectionable and insanitary "open-air" latrines and the heavy rainfall leading to the surface and subsoil contamination of the source of drinking water supply from the wells, the water-logging of the soil due to the heavy rains preventing the bacilli from dying out, the danger of the presence of a fairly large number of carriers of Bacillary Dysentery in the community, and finally the prevalence of cases of Enteritis as a result of dietary indiscretion seemed to provide ideal conditions for the spread of the epidemic of Bacillary Dysentery in the locality.

The unit having completed its work of investigation of the epidemic left Mangalore on 31st July, 1953 under the orders of the Director of Medical Services, Madras who had arrived in Mangalore on 29th July. The unit returned to the King Institute on the forenoon of 1st August, 1953.

Personnel of the Unit:

1. Medical Officer
1 Technician
1 Ist Grade Laboratory Attendant
1 Attender.

/ True copy /

K. [illegible]

For Director of Medical Services.

ns.28.9.

HEA (HIII)

Memo no 53028 H III/53-1 d 2/12/53

Sub: Epidemics - South Kanara Dt - Kasargod Taluk - Kumbla area - Prevalence of Bacillary dysentery in an epidemic form.

Ref: From the D.M.S. No 77309-G2/53 d. 29.9.53:

The D.M.S. is requested to send a copy of his letter no 77309-G2/53 d. 8.8.53 very much referred to in his cited letter cited very urgently

1/12/53

3/12/53

CES

2.12.53

CNO 53028/53

24/12

p! c/f

3/12/53

To

The D.M.S.

9/12

Medical Department

From

Lt. Col. Sangha Lal, MBBS. FRCS(Eng) DOMS(Lond),
Director of Medical Services(Madras.6.

73561

To

The Secretary to Government, Health, Education and Local Administration Department, Madras.

Sir, Ref:No.77309-G/53 dated 12-12-1953.

Sub:-Epidemics-South Kanara District-Kasargod Taluk-Kumbla area-prevalence of Bacillary Dysentery in an epidemic form.

Ref:-Govt.Memo No.53028-H 111/53.1. dated 3-12-53

A copy of my letter Ref.No.77309-G2/53 dated 8-8-'53 is furnished herewith as desired in the Government Memo cited.

Yours faithfully,

for Director of Medical Services.

ktk/12.12.

copy of letter Ref.No.77309-G2/53 dated 8-8-53 addressed to the Secretary to Govt. Health, Department, Madras.

In continuation of my letter cited above I forward herewith for the information of Government copies of letters C.No. 7065/53 dated 25-7-53 of the District Medical Officer, South Kanara and copy of letter dated 22-7-53 of the Medical Officer in-charge of the Investigation Unit deputed from the King Institute, Guindy

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Copy of letter C.No.7065/53 dated 25-7-53 from the District Medical Officer, South Kanara, Mangalore to the Director of Medical Services, Madras.

Sub:-Epidemic bacillary dysentery in Kasargode taluk area Kumbla area.

In continuation of my letter quoted above, I forward herewith copies of the report given to me by the Medical Officer In-charge of the special unit deputed from the King Institute Guindy for investigation. I also invite your kind attention to copy of letter Ref.C.2234-C.53 dated 24-7-53 from the District Health Officer, Mangalore to the Director of Public Health & copy to you

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Copy of letter dated 24-7-53 addressed to the Director, King Institute Guindy

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Sub:-Epidemic of dysentery from Kumbla area-South Kanara District.

So far twenty specimens of motions have been collected from different parts of the area from where the epidemic was reported

p.t.o

The specimens were examined microscopically and culturally. Out of the fifteen cultures examined four have been found to be positive for Sh. Shiga. Two specimens are under investigation. Five specimens collected on 23-7-1953 are also under investigation. The detailed report is attached herewith.

copy of letter from the District Medical Officer, Head Quarters Hospital Mangalore dated 22-7-53 addressed to the Director of Medical Services, Madras.6

Sub:-Epidemic reported from Kumbla and Moogal villages of South Kanara District-preliminary report on.

The unit from the King Institute Guindy arrived in Mangalore on the evening of 20-7-53. On the next morning, accompanied by the District Medical Officer and District Health Officer of South Kanara, the unit visited Kumbla and Moogal Villages.

The nature of the epidemic reported from the locality was found to be Dysentery of the bacillary type as suggested by the findings set out below:-

The Chief complaint in all the cases seen(fresh cases investigated were 9 in number) was abdominal colic with frequent passage of blood and mucus in the stools.

Naked eye examination of stools- Blood and viscid mucus found with little of faecal material. Stools comparatively odourless.

Reaction - Alkaline.

Microscopic examination R.B.C. pus cells & Macrophage cells plus plus. No.E. histolytica seen. No ova or cysts. No charcot Leyden Crystals.

All the motion samples were put up for culture for investigation of the Dysentery group of organisms.

As fresh cases of Dysentery have been reported from the villages of Arikady and Ichlampady in the vicinity of Kumbla the unit will collect motion samples from the area to-day.

It is evident that there has been an epidemic of Dysentery in the locality though apparently there is nothing very alarming in the situation at present. The cause of the epidemic is obviously the pollution of the well water in the locality The wells are shallow and situated on a low level in the compounds of the houses. The open spaces round the houses are being used as latrines and owing to the heavy rains which are usual in the locality at this time of the year, the surface water from the surrounding open spaces is washed into the wells thus leading to the Bacterial contamination of the source of drinking water supply.

Further report on the bacteriological diagnosis will follow in due course.

/True copy/

15/11

For Director of Medical Services, Madras

Detailed report on Bacteriollgical examination of Motion speciments from Kumbla area-South Kanara District

S.No.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Village.	Micr.	Culture.
1.	Kunhabi.	F	12	Koipadi.	R.B.C.pus cells Macrophage cells plus,plus to EH cysts seen.	Negative for dysentery group of Organisms.
2.	Prema.	F	4	-do-	-do-	-do-
3.	Abdul Rahiman	M	15	Mogral	-do-	-under investigation.
4.	Abdul Rahim.	M	10	-do-	-do-	Negative for dysentery group of organisms.
5.	Bipathuma	F	40	-do-	-do-	Sh. Shiga isolated from culture.
6.	Abdulla	M	25	-do-	-do-	Negative for dysentery group of organisms.
7.	Ayga.	F	7	-do-	-do-	Sh. Shiga Isolated from culture.
8.	Arine.	F	5	Hosabettu	-do-	Negative for dysentery group of organisms.
9.	Lucy.	F	38	-do-	-do-	under investigation.
10.	Sadashiva	M	5	Ichlampadi	Nil Abnormal	Negative for Dysentery group of organisms(treated case)
11.	Ramakrishna Kunjithaya.	M	17	Vallambadi	R.B.C.Pus cells & Macrophage cells present No. EH No.ova.	Negative for dysentery group of organisms.
12.	Kalyani.	F	17	-do-	-do-	Sh. Shiga isolated from culture.
13.	Narayana.	M	15	-do-	R.B.C.pus cells & Macrophage cells present.No.EH, No.ova.	Negative for dysentery group of organisms.
14.	Kunjappa Shetty	M	60	-do-	-do-	Sh. Shiga isolated from culture.
15.	Patty.	F	9	-do-	-do- Round worm.Ova plus.	Negative for Dysentery group of organisms.

/True copy/

p.t.o

15/XII
For Director of medical services madras

12

copy of letter dated 25th July'53 from the Medical Officer-Incharge Unit to the Director of Medical services,Madras.6.

Sub:-Epidemic of dysentery from Kumbla area-South Kanara district

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In continuation of my letter dated 24th July'1953 the cultural reports on two specimens under investigation and five specimens collected on 23-7-53 are given below. Two specimens collected from Kasargode on 24-7-53are put up for culture and passed ~~from Kasargode on 25-7-53~~ through Sugarna today.

S.No.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Village.	Micro.	Culture.
3	Abdul Rahiman (under investigation).	M	15	Moogral	--	Culture for dysentry group of organisms negative.
9.	-do-Lucy.	F	38	Hosbettu	--	-do-
16.	Abdul Rahiman	M	4	Arikadi	--	Microscope Cellular Exudate & Pus cells present.No ova or cyst.Culture for dysentery group of organisms Negative.
17.	Abdulla.	M	10	Arikadi.	Cellular Exudate & Pus cells Present No. Ove or cyst.	Culture for dysentery group of organisms negative.
18.	Mohamad.	M	8	Arikadi	-do-	-do-
19.	Dyramma	F	40	"	-do-	-do-
20.	Mahalingam	M	45		Cellular Exudate present No.ova or cyst or Amoebae.	Sh. Shiga isolated from motion culture.

/True copy/

ktk/14.12

15/10

For Director of Medical Services
Madras

HEALTH (A)

C No 53028/53

Epidemics - South Kanara - Dt - Kasargod taluk - kumbla area - Prevalence of Bacillary dysentry - Deputation of Medical unit - Expenditure Sanctioned.

Ref: From the DMS Ref No 77209 Co2/53, d. 29/9/53.

p1ef — From the DMS, Ref No 77209 - Co/53 d 12/12/53.

GO (Ms) No 450 Health/K d 26.2.54

Sanction is The Govt approve the proposal of the DMS that the extra expenditure incurred in Connection with the medical relief arrangements made in the kumbla area in the Kasaragod taluk in the South Kanara Dt by the deputation of a medical unit from Mangalore in July - August 1953 be met from the State Funds. The action of the DMO, South Kanara in having appointed a Nursing orderly to accompany the Medical unit from 24/7/53 to 15/8/53 is ratified. His pay and allowance at the rates admissible to him will also be met from the State funds

para 2 on p1ef

para 1 on p1ef

B' on p3ef and para 2 on p1ef

Dfd 24/2/54

To
The DMS
A G (Hrs) Fin
Copy to DPH

Sc-1

JR 6/1/54 — 6/54

7/1/54

SRS 8/54

G.O. No. 5362-H3/53

HELA (H3)

Epidemics – South Kanara dt – Kasaragod taluk – Kumbla area – Prevalence of Bacillary dysentery.

Ref. from the D.M.S., Ref. No. 17309-G2/53, dt. 24-9-53

[Memo No. 530.28 H3/53-1, dt. 3.12.53 from the D.M.S., Ref. No. 17304-G/53, dt. 12.12.53]

plcf

p7 cf
p9 cf

Memo. 39205 E1/53 Health 20.7.53

plcf of (B)

On receipt of certain representations from the public of Mogral and surrounding villages in Kasaragod taluk in the South Kanara dt that dysentery was prevailing in a virulent form in the area and with reference to the minutes of M(H) on plc f/g (B), the D.P.H was asked to take necessary preventive measures and the D.M.S asked to provide necessary medical aid.

pp. 7-8 c/f of (B)

2. A medical unit from out of the sanctioned strength of the Govt Head-quarters Hospital Mangalore, was deputed to the area. In that connection, the D.M.O., South Kanara specially appointed a Nursing Orderly for the period from 24-7-53 to 15-8-53. The D.M.S. requests that sanction may be accorded to the employment of the Nursing Orderly for the period in question and that the expenditure incurred in connection with the medical relief arrangements may also be sanctioned. The total expenditure involved is Rs. ~~545~~ 551-9-6. The proposals of the D.M.S. may be approved.

para 2 of plcf

Ibid also 'B' on plcf

para 2 on plcf

i/r 1 & 1.

'X' p3 cf

3. It may be noted that the epidemic which was diagonised as "bacillary dysentery" has subsided, that the situation medical unit has since been withdrawn.

p13 c/f of (B)

& p42 c/f (B)

× para 1 on plcf

P.T.O.

2.

4. A draft order is submitted below for approval Finance may see before issue

7-1-54

8/54

Thro H 2 6/1/54

8/54

7

Finance (E.I) Department.

HELA No MD 53028 H III/53

8/1/1954

CSR

2665 E F
9-JAN-1954
12
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

On receipt of the representation from the Public of Mogral and other villages in Kasargod Taluk, The Director of Public Health was asked to take necessary preventive measures and the Director of Medical Services was asked to provide necessary medical aid.

The Director of Medical Services incurred extra expenditure in connection with the medical relief arrangements by the deputation of a medical unit from Mangalore in July-August, 1953 and in the appointment of a nursing orderly to accompany the medical unit from 24-7-53 to 15-8-53. H.E.L.A. propose to sanction the above expenditure amounting to Rs. 551 as shown below:-

		Rs.	A.	P.
Travelling allowance and Daily allowance to the Medical Officer Dr. K. Madhavan Kutty	..	88	8	0
-do- for the nurse	..	21	2	0
-do- for the Nursing Orderly	..	16	8	0
-do- for the Dt. Board compounder	..	44	6	0
Total	..	170	8	0
Pay and allowances of One Male Nursing orderly specially appointed to accompany the Medical Unit for the period 24-7-53 to 15-8-53	..	27	7	0
Contingencies, towards freight charges cost of kerosine oil etc.	..	11	10	6
Cost of Medicines	..	556	14	0
		595	15	6
Dt. Board employees' allowance	..	44	6	0
Total		551	-9	-6

H3

This Department may agree and the draft order may be accepted.

20/2/54

HELA

HELA(H3)

The draft order may now issue

25/2/54

SECRETARY TO GOVT.
18523
28 FEB 1954
H.M. & LOCAL ADMN. DEPT.